

REMARKS

Claims 15-32 are pending in the present application. Claims 15 and 24-32 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and requests reconsideration in view of the amendments to the claims and the following remarks.

Double Patenting Rejection

Claims 24-32 have been amended to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Drawings Rejection

In the present office action, the examiner has rejected the drawing amendments submitted on June 11, 2004 after a final office action.

However, these drawing amendments are no longer pending. In the advisory action mailed August 11, 2004, the examiner indicated that the amendments would not be entered. Subsequently, in the RCE filed October 4, 2004, the applicant did not resubmit the drawing amendments. Thus, the drawing amendments were previously withdrawn and are no longer pending.

112 Rejections

Claims 15-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claim 15 contains the limitation "one or more interior boxes forming one or more lower levels of the hierarchy, each lower level including one or more interior boxes". According to the examiner, this claimed limitation is disclosed in the specification as prior art, not as the present invention, and this claim limitation, therefore, is inappropriate.

The applicant respectfully disagrees. The applicant respectfully submits that it is appropriate for a particular limitation within a claim to recite subject matter that is prior art, so long as the claim as a whole, recites patentable subject matter. Furthermore, the applicant respectfully submits that the limitation at issue is described in the specification as being part of a

patentable combination of subject matter. For example, FIG. 4 depicts a variable page layout template 310 according to an implementation of the present invention. Template 310 has an external bounding box 402 that contains two sibling boxes 404 and 406. Box 404 is a synthesized box having a variable width 412 and a synthesized variable height 418. (page 4 lines 22-24 and 30-31).

102 Rejections

Claims 15-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Microsoft PowerPoint 2000, Copyright 1987-1999 Microsoft Corporation, pages 1-15, referred to as PowerPoint.

Claim 15 recites receiving a page layout template, the template including a hierarchy of boxes, the hierarchy including an exterior bounding box for the template and one or more interior boxes, at least one of the interior boxes having one or more metrics that are variable in the same dimensions as the exterior bounding box, each metric specifying a size for the interior box, a distance between the interior box and another box, or both, the size or distance each being defined as two values, a first value specifying a nominal value, and a second value specifying a range of permissible values around the nominal value.

Powerpoint does not disclose a size or distance value that is defined as two values, a first value specifying a nominal value, and a second value specifying a range of permissible values around the nominal value. For example, as described on page 5 of the specification, metric 422 of box 404 can be defined as "1/2 inch plus or minus 1/4 inch". In this example, the "1/2 inch" specifies the nominal value and the "plus or minus 1/4 inch" specifies the range of permissible values. In Powerpoint, the size of a box is defined as a single value, not as two values.


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